



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 13 OIF

14 August 2003



Editor

The rumors are flying about mid-tour leave, there are still many details to be worked out and the chain of command at all levels to include the General, are working very hard on figuring out the best way to take care of all of our soldiers. One of the few facts that is relatively firm is that no soldier will be eligible until they have spent 5 months deployed. Those of you who read the last edition may remember the article **"Well Deserved Rest and Relaxation"**. The article talked about soldiers going on R & R leave right now. You may think that is not five months but those soldiers were clearly identified as being from C 2-6 IN and if you will think back, that unit left three months before any of the rest of the BDE. They have met the five month cut off and definitely deserve the rest.

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister
BCT Rear-D Commander

STRIKER 6

Brigade Combat Team,

I want to take the opportunity to let all of you know how thrilled my wife Debbie and I are to serve as the new command team for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and how much we both look forward to meeting and working with all of you over the next two years. I know how difficult these times are for families and loved ones and I can assure you that I will do everything I can to minimize the burdens that you bear during this deployment.

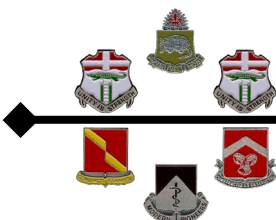
In the short period of time that I have been in command of the brigade I am constantly in awe and impressed by the level of commitment, dedication and bravery of every soldier in the combat team. Every day I see our soldier making a difference here in Iraq. I am convinced their hard work and sacrifices will ensure that our children and future generations will grow up in a safer and more peaceful world.

I'm not sure how much you know about what the brigade is doing right now in Baghdad so let me take

the opportunity to bring you up to date. First of all, we have grown in size and numbers since departing Baumholder. We are currently the largest brigade in Iraq with roughly 5000 soldiers assigned to the unit. The increase in size is largely due to the addition of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment that was placed under the brigade's control three weeks ago. With the addition of this latest member of the team, 2BCT is responsible for one of the largest areas in Baghdad and for over 720,000 Iraqi citizens. On a daily basis we do everything from conducting combat operations to eliminate paramilitary and terrorist organizations to managing construction projects designed to rebuild the city's infrastructure and public services. Additionally, we are actively assisting and advising the Iraqis with the establishment of neighborhood and district councils, essential preliminary steps to helping them establish a fair and democratic system of government. Finally, we spend a great deal of time protecting key and important sites in and around Baghdad like power plants, government facilities, banks, hospitals and schools. As you can see, the tasks we are conducting are varied and complex. The fact that the soldiers in 2 BCT can adapt to accomplish these tasks as well as they have is a tribute to the high standards of professionalism and discipline that is the hallmark of every member in this organization. I am extremely proud of them and you should be as well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Family Readiness Group Leaders and volunteers that are doing so much for our families and soldiers. Without your selfless volunteer efforts our soldiers would not be able to focus on the many and varied tasks that we are called upon to do. I will never be able to thank you enough for the contributions you make every day for both the soldiers in this brigade and their family members and loved ones. Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for what you do.

In conclusion, let me once again reiterate what an honor and a privilege it is for me to serve as the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. I





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assure you that I have the interest and welfare of every soldier on my mind, every minute of the day and that I will do everything in my power to take care of our soldiers and accomplish our mission.

STRIKE HARD!

RALPH O. BAKER COL, IN Commanding

HELLRAISERS



SPC Tim Griswold prepares HQ17 for another of the daily runs to Baghdad international.

There is an entirely new chain of command in the Hellraisers. CPT Che Arosemena was happy to observe the flawless transition from 1SG Crisp to the new 1SG David Bray. 1SG Bray has been with the BDE since March as the 1-6 IN S2 NCOIC and is very excited about being the new 1SG in such a dynamic company. The company is also breaking in a new XO since CPT Jimenez had to return and get ready for his transition to a new location.

There have been many other changes as the Staff Captains have moved on to take commands of the companies in the battalion.

The Hellraisers wish the best of luck to those who have moved on and extend a hearty welcome to all of the new members of the team.

PIONEERS

ASSASSINS

A/47th Forward Support Battalion

Hello from Baghdad at the International Airport. The Assassins are working hard as we continue to support the 2d Brigade Combat Team with Food, Water, Fuel, Ammunition, Medical Supplies, and

Repair Parts. The soldiers are working through some of the toughest conditions that we have seen yet; yesterday it was 134 degrees in the Supply Support Activity. In order to mitigate some of the heat hazards we have adjusted our work schedule so that the soldiers can work at night and in the early morning.

For exceptional performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom the following soldiers have been awarded an Army Achievement Medal: SPC Emily Breitkreutz, SPC Jared Odom, SPC Dreyllon Broadnax, PV2 Jason Ratliff, SGT Jamila Moody, SFC Carl Hall, CPL James Shraedley, SPC William Lowell, SGT Mark Roberts, SPC Marc Rathell, PV2 Matthew Hernandez, SPC Renee Whitnee, SSG Benjamin (Ebay) Escobar, SGT Gloria Brown, SPC Anthony Phillips, SPC Daryl Wright, SPC Jay Aubrey, PV2 Sara Houf, SPC Nelson Tiekou, SPC Jazmin Mondragon, PFC Andrea Woessner.

Congratulations to all of these OUTSTANDING soldiers for their exemplary performance while deployed. (SPC(P) Mondragon, SPC(P) Breitkreutz) (SPC(P) Washington, SPC Collins in the SSA)

Congratulations to the following soldiers for promotion from Specialist or Corporal to SGT SPC Emily Breitkreutz, SPC Kim Cudjoe, SPC Kenneth Speight, SPC William Lowell, SPC Jarred Odom, SPC Ingrid Washington, SPC Nelson Tiekou. These are the new leaders of the Army and will epitomize the first line of the NCO creed "No One is More Professional Than I."

I appreciate all the help from the FRG back in the Baumholder for the soldiers of 47th Forward Support Battalion. The soldiers are doing their job, taking care of each other, and exceeding expectations every day. Be proud of them and re-assure them of your love, this is what they miss more than anything. We are proud to be apart of the Striker Team and look forward to coming home when our job is done.

CPT KC Bradford Assassin 6
1SG Willie Shinholster Assassin 7

CONQUEROR

12 August 2003

Dear Conqueror Families,

I went down to visit Blackjack (B/1-35 AR) on Tuesday this past week. They are guarding a Nuclear Research Facility and another remote site out in the middle of nowhere. They have one platoon at the



"2nd BCT NEWSLETTER" For Previous editions go to
http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm



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remote site living in a concrete bunker. We are going to buy them a generator, four air conditioners, a fridge, and some window structures to make life a little better out there. Guys get a good amount of time off and can now call on one phone from the top level of their tower. The platoons rotate out for about a week-long duty at this site. SFC Williams, 1LT Kalicharan, SSG Jimenez, and SSG Eve and their platoon were down there when we visited. SPC Garcia and SPC Woods were busy up in the tower on guard duty. The platoons down at this remote site had been buying ice with their own money but we are fixing that and going to reimburse them for their money spent. They were getting ice but it was not enough to keep drinks and themselves cool enough. The NCOs and soldiers are doing a fantastic job ensuring none of the soldiers have heat problems. We are currently one of the few battalions that have not had any heat casualties.

Bravo Company 1-35 Armor has been very busy conducting patrols over a very large area and recently conducted several raids with the help of two infantry platoons. They have conducted raids on suspected weapons caches and on the living quarters of suspected special soldiers of Saddam. We also got to visit 2nd Platoon Bravo Company and talk with 2LT Allering and his Platoon Sergeant SFC Wilson. After a brief discussion, I remembered SFC Wilson. He was a gunner on my 3rd Platoon Leader's tank when I commanded C, Company, 3-37 AR at Fort Riley. Seems I must not have messed him up too bad after all! 2nd Platoon was pretty fired up because they just came off the remote duty and were going to get to patrol and run some actual tactical missions. I was not able to catch up with first platoon: 2LT Shultz, SFC Foster, SSG Tobey, and SSG Hogan. They are working with an infantry company conducting raids and providing security for the dismounted infantry during operations.

Their main company Command Post back on the research facility is getting fixed up and has refrigerators, air conditioners, electricity, and some running water. Things are getting better there and we are still fixing up their site. The two companies still working to get better on Life Support are B/1-35 and A/2-6 Infantry, who is still with the Task Force. We should have everyone up to a comfortable level

by the end of the month. US AID is trying to displace our Charlie Company and take their building. We are fighting it but we may lose because they are a Governmental agency coming in for Humanitarian Assistance. Time will tell and the Brigade and Division are fighting for us but not sure we will win in the long run. They said they would pay to fix up another building but the Commanche House is pretty nice and very conveniently tied in with the Headquarters and A/2-6 Infantry.

The Task Force is supposed to shoot gunnery in January 2004. We are also qualifying on our weapons during our brief down time to ensure we stay sharp and do not have to run out to qualify when we get back to Baumholder. We have not had many incidents other than distant firings at patrols as they pass but we still want to be ready if and when we must precisely engage any personnel who are conducting violent or criminal activities.

We welcomed two new companies to the TF 1-35 on the morning of 8 August. One is a light infantry company from the National Guard out of Florida. The other is a field artillery battery from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment from Fort Polk, LA. This will add about 287 people to the task force bringing us up to almost 900 people in the task force. We also received an engineer platoon to work with us throughout our zone.

Congratulations to both SFC Surrette and his wife for the birth of a new baby girl, just over 4 lbs, and being watched very closely but we understand although premature and via C-Section both are doing fine.

We have had several reenlistments since the last update:

- SGT Jason Long (HHC)
- SGT Nathan George (B Company)
- SPC Lamar Hawkins (HHC)
- SPC Jason Quintanilla (C Company)
- SPC Jessie Morales (C Company)
- SSG Rejiriel Graham (A Company)
- SPC Adrian Gaines (HHC)
- SPC Carl Brantley (HHC)
- SPC Robert Brown (HHC)

LTC Lane
Conqueror 6



GATORS



SSG Horton and SPC Adkins, B Co, monitor the IV they stuck into PFC Senn, 1-35 AR, for practice purposes



SSG Horton, B Co, with the help of the MEDEVAC crew up front lead PFC Lemus, 1-35 AR, to the helicopter



Timothy Frere (left), PFC Coates (center) joke while their wait for their ride to the

THUNDER

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY "HURRICANES" CPT Bobby H. Davis

Hello Hurricanes, this is truly a bittersweet moment for me because this marks the end of my command. I will change command on 14 Aug 03 and CPT Shawn Miller will assume command responsibilities. I have truly enjoyed serving as your battery commander and I truly believe that Headquarters and Headquarters Battery is better today than when I took the guidon. HHB continues to set the standard here in Baghdad, Iraq. We continue to patrol the streets of Baghdad and man static positions ensuring a safe and secure environment for the Iraqi people. We work with Iraqi citizens daily and have established relationships that foster a peaceful and calm climate. To date, no one from HHB has been injured or hurt during our deployment. Our soldiers are trained well and continue to perform their duties to standard.



Hurricanes settled in and ready for operations

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the wives of the Family Readiness Group. Your dedication and steadfastness is truly a testament to what the FRG has become. Tammy and I really appreciate your efforts in building a cohesive FRG and for taking care of each other while your husbands are deployed. We have truly been blessed to have you as members of the Hurricane Family and I hope that you continue to prosper in all that you do. You make our jobs bearable because we know that you await our return. Thank You and GOD Speed to you all.

"ROCK HARD HURRICANES"
HURRICANE 6, OUT!





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ALPHA BATTERY "GATORS"

CPT Reginald M. Harris Sr.

BAGHDAD, Iraq-Hello to all he family and friends of the Gator soldiers. The soldier's of Alpha Battery have gotten into the full swing of operations here in Baghdad. They continue to guard vital sites and patrol the neighborhoods in hopes of keeping things here in Iraq safe. The task of keeping the peace and finding the bad guys is proving to be a very difficult one, and several Gators will return with a few scars to show for it.

Life in the Gator compound keeps steadily developing with at least one improvement coming a week. The latest improvements to the compound include a refrigerator, freezer, microwave (start sending the popcorn ladies), ice machine, satellite TV, and last but not least air conditioners.



2nd Platoon takes a moment for a photo op

When they are off shift, the soldiers do many different things. Some play basketball or lift weights. Others get in front of the TV to watch the news or to catch a movie. A few have DVD players or Playstations for entertainment. Some of the soldiers choose to read, and many of them write letters home. One of the highlights of the soldiers' off time is receiving mail. The soldiers of Alpha Battery greatly appreciate the letters and packages that their family and friends send them.

The soldiers all miss their families and friends very much and look forward to the time when they will be reunited again. "GATOR 6!!!!"

REGULARS



1-6 IN recently had a ceremony for the spouses of the new Commanders. They read the unit history and presented yellow roses to all of the new ladies. Pictured from the left are SSG Gibson, Stephanie Jones, Connie Schroeder, Kowanda McBride, Carla Federovich, SSG Lawson, 1LT Hoffman, and

CHAPLAIN CORNER

News You Can Use from the Rear Detachment: About sixty children representing all congregations are taking part in the post's Vacation Bible School this week. Volunteers report a good level of enthusiasm, although of course the program is far smaller this year than it has been previously. The children are learning about "Fruit of the Spirit", which the Bible contrasts with the product of sin. The *Letter to Galatians* says (Gal. 5:22), "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." A **good curriculum** for all of us to practice!

Older youth ages 13-19 are signing up now for the kick-off Youth Seminar called "Do the Truth". The Hambachtal resort, featuring the popular "Pyramid" swimming pool area and comfortable conference rooms, will host the seminar for us on Friday September 19 and Saturday September 20. Popular teacher Dr R.C. Sproul will use humor and the Parable of the Prodigal Son to explain why we need to operate on the basis of absolute truth. Five lively discussions will equip teens to resist destructive pressures of modern culture. They'll learn to prize their inheritance instead of squandering it. Chaplains and chaperones will shepherd the group. Anyone interested in participating should phone Chaplain





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Horning, DSN 485-7295 or e-mail
Stevan.Horning@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil.

The Chapel Congregations in St Michael's (Chapel 2, Roman Catholic) and Chapel of the Good Samaritan (Protestant, Gospel, Lutheran, and Korean) as well as in Strassburg all are ordering curriculum material and making plans for the autumn programs. Suddenly, it seems, people are re-appearing after summer travels. New chaplains also have arrived, both in Iraq and also in Baumholder. For a short time in May, BSB Chaplain Cerrone and his deputy Chaplain Land were alone in ministering to six congregations. Then Reserves Chaplain Dave Anderson arrived from Wyoming, and after him Ch Bob Francis from Missouri and Ch Steve Horning from Cleveland, Ohio. Now we have welcomed also the new BSB Deputy, Ch Jon Shaw and a new assistant deputy, Ch Collin Grossruck. Chaplain Horton also transferred from Wiesbaden to Iraq. Since the 1 AD departed for Iraq, Chaplains Land, Sorenson, and Walden have PCSed.

We all can avoid or mitigate serious marriage and family problems by reading carefully together, as a couple, the Bible's *Letter To Ephesians*. No doubt couples will profit from reading any good literature together, but this Bible portion fits perfectly. The first three chapters explain principles and doctrine, the last three chapters home in on practice and directives. Very sensible! Soldiers in Iraq can prepare for reunion by discovering in those brief pages the beautiful design God had in mind when He invented marriage. Spouses back in Baumholder can ready themselves for reunion by studying up on how husbands and wives, parents and children, employers and employees are supposed to relate to one another (Chapters 5 & 6). Meanwhile, we can all train our minds and tongues by *Ephesians 4:29*, which says "**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, so that it may benefit those who listen.**" Try memorizing that, phrase by phrase - pure wisdom!

STRIKING SCRIPTURE: Last time here I started with *Nehemiah 6: 15,16*, which reports that the beleaguered exiles who came from Babylon to Jerusalem were able to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in only 52 days. That was the "happy ending" part. Perhaps now is a good time to remind ourselves about "the rest of the story." Briefly put, Nehemiah

and his brave team encountered constant opposition at all stages of their project. The story is told in two books of the Bible, *Ezra* and *Nehemiah*. One example of what they had to deal with will suffice now. It occurred after much work had been invested in the wall, but more than half remained to be done. You might be able to apply well this lesson to the task of rebuilding Iraq (history is rich in irony; God must have planned things that way!). In *Nehemiah 4: 1-5*, we read that the Horonite foe named Sanballat became incensed with anger -tinged with fear- when he realized Nehemiah was making good progress. So Sanballat ridiculed the wall-builders, taunting them with barbs like "Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble, burned as they are?". His sidekick Tobiah the Ammonite, chimed in with "What they are building - if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!" But Nehemiah's men and women kept on rebuilding. Nehemiah referred his emotions about that to God, praying "Hear us, O God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads." We gain this lesson: there always will be some soreheads who fling insults in the faces of the builders, but God will help those who are trying to do something good and positive.

Be assured that you are not alone.

Community Announcements

Fall Sports

Parent Meeting: 16 Aug at the Mountaineer Fitness Center (All Sports)

1100 – Soccer

1200 – Flag Football/Cheerleading

1300 – Tackle Football

Fall Sports Season: Practice starts NLT 18 Aug

1st Game on 6 Sept: End of Season NLT 15 Nov

Steve Ferguson at DSN 485-8249

School Registration

-- All DODDS schools are open for registration now. Getting children registered early helps to ensure that classes stay smaller as the administrators can forecast teachers for funding and hiring.

-- Sports physicals are scheduled for the 14th of August. Contact the Baumholder health clinic for more information or the school to determine if your student needs a physical.





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-- The Baumholder Clinic will have a Student preparation walk in day on the 27th of August. Families can walk in that day and they clinic will ensure they have the appropriate immunizations etc.. prior to the beginning of classes.

ASACS

The High School has just started a new program called Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service (ASACS). The program has 4 main elements.

- Life-Skill building groups for at-risk adolescents
- Workshops and in-service training for other professionals
- Printed materials on the prevention of adolescent alcohol and other drug abuse
- Classroom presentations

For more information call Mr. Kerry Wilenski at 485-8772 or email at kerry.d.wilensky@saic.com

Commissary Hours

EARLY BIRD SHOPPING DISCONTINUED!

Effective Aug 4, 2003, The Baumholder Commissary will discontinue "Early Bird" Shopping. Hours will be:

Baumholder Commissary
Mon-Fri: 1000-2000 Hours
Sat.: 1000-1800 Hours
Sun: 1100-1800 Hours

Due to construction, the store hours for the Baumholder Commissary beginning Sep 1, 2003:

TUES-SUN: 0900-2000 HOURS
CLOSED ON MONDAYS!

New Curfew Enforcement

It is not a new policy, enforcement has just been stepped up lately. In accordance with the BSB policy letter #7-16 and HQ USAREUR Memo of 7 Aug 2002 The Baumholder Cerfew policy is as follow:

Children 13 or younger will be in someone's quarters between 2100 and 0600. They may be outside in the company of a family member or guardian over 18 years of age.

Children 14-17 will be inside between 2300 and 0530 unless with the same 18 year old supervision. Exceptions exist.

For further information consult the policy letter or call ACS Family Advocacy at 485-8188 or 6468

Water Aerobics

Dates: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 1800 – 1900

Location: Rec Emporium

Youth Services Trips

30 Aug – Holiday Park in Hassloch Cost: \$30 plus spending money

05 Sep – Dining-Out Korean in Kaiserslautern Cost: Order off the menu

12 Sep – Back to School Dance at the Underground Cost: \$3.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members

20 Sep – High School Dance at the Teen Cafe Cost: \$3.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members

Signed permission slips and fees due 1 week before event. Events without minimum sign-up will be canceled .

Steve Ferguson at DSN 485-8249

CYS

Parents Night Out

Saturday, 16 August, 1800 – 2200

Wetzel CDC (Infants – Kindergarten) \$10/child
(1st – 6th grade) \$6/child

Payment due when reserving a spot

Must be registered with CYS

Reserve by 8 August (spaces limited)

Wetzel CDC, 485-7133/7284

Art Smart Weeks, 11 – 22 Aug

Photo Scavenger Hunt – Idar-Oberstien, 12 & 14 Aug

Heidelberg Zoo, 19 & 21 Aug

Transition Week, 25 – 29 Aug Prepare for end of summer vacation. Children entering first grade will be introduced to SAS.

Carlotta James at DSN 485-6852

Outdoor Rec Tours

Six Flags Holland Aug 16

Six Flags Belgium Aug 23

Whitewater Kayaking Aug 24

Austrian Adventure Aug 28–Sept 1

Introduction to Paragliding Aug 2-3, Aug 30-31

Werner Graf at DSN 485-7182





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Rheinlander Events

Monday Night Movie Night
Tuesday night kids' night with
– kids' movies in the restaurant
Wednesday Night Buffet
Saturday Night Schnitzel Night
Monthly flea market 16 Aug 03
Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

Host Nation Sponsored Events

15-17 Aug 03 Hambachtalfest at the Hambachtal
Recreation Facility
15-19 Aug 03 Jahrmarkt at Bad Kreuznach
15-20 24 Aug 03 Fleamarket at Metz, France
29-31 Aug 03 Schlefferfest at Idar
31 Aug 03 Open Crosstriathlon at Altenglan
1 Sep 03 Market at Kirn
5-7 Sep 03 Saarland Days at St. Wendel
5-9 Sep 03 Kusel Fall Fair
5-9 Sep 03 Praemienmarkt at Birkenfeld
6 Sep 03 Fleamarket at Homburg/Saar
12-16 Sep 03 Bad Duerckheimer Wurstmarkt
14 Sep 03 Farmers & Art Market at Berglangenhach
20-22 Sep 03 Baumholder City Fair Market on
Monday (22)
26-28 Sep 03 City Fest at Oberstein
Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 485-1600

August events

26 Town Hall, 4pm
27 LINKS, 10am
29 USAREUR Training Holiday Briefing for new
high school students, 1:00pm at Baumholder
High School.

September events

1 Labor Day
2 School Begins
7 Effective this day, old installation passes
AE 190-13a & AE 190-13c will no longer be
accepted.
Sunday Brunch, 10am-1:30pm
24 LINKS
30 Town Hall Meeting

FORCE PROTECTION

Recently there have been reports of U.S ID cards, U.S. passports, and USAREUR license plates ON SALE at German Flea Markets. This presents a very serious concern that, for little as 10 Euros, terrorist organizations will come in possession of the tools essential to gain access on post.

Request everyone's assistance in helping identifying where these type of sales are being conducted. Flea markets are normally held on Saturdays and Sundays. If you happen to go to a German (or even French) flea market, and you see that U.S. ID cards, U.S. passports, or USAREUR license plates are on sale, contact the Baumholder MP Desk immediately, 06783-6-7546 or 7547, with the location and description of the salesperson. The salesperson normally has a vehicle next to his/her goods. Annotate the make of the vehicle, but most importantly, the license plate, so that the MPs may be able to track him/her, should he/she leave before the arrival of the authorities.

Don't alert or attempt to question the salesperson, just report it to the nearest Law Enforcement desk. If unsure, call the Baumholder MP Desk and they will take the appropriate action.

